

SESSION 3:  
*Coal Utilisation and the  
Environment*

*Chair: Ms Margaret Beardow  
Principal  
Benchmark Economics  
Australia*

# Margaret Beardow

Principal

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M/s. Beardow is Principal of BENCHMARK ECONOMICS, a consultancy she established in 1997. She has more than 25 years experience in the energy sector working with both the private sector and government.

Her focus is the management of the industry's interface with the new environment of competitive markets and deregulation. Assignments have included corporate strategy for competitive markets, energy market design, and regulation economics for networks. Projects have been undertaken in Asia Pacific as well as in Australia.

M/s Beardow provides advice to many of Australia's leading energy companies including generators, gas and electricity transmission and distribution networks, and retail suppliers. For networks, Margaret has advised on regulation strategy and cost structure analysis for submissions and responses to regulatory pricing reviews. With extensive experience in the linkages between technical factors and network costs she has participated in almost all pricing reviews in the past two years.

For a leading retail client Margaret participated in the application to have the wholesale market price cap reduced. The success of this application has drawn greater attention to wholesale market bidding practices. She also prepared the client's submission to the SA Electricity Market Inquiry dealing with market structure and rebidding in the wholesale power pool.

In collaboration with an American colleague she is conducting the most extensive cost structure analysis of electricity networks yet undertaken. In support of this analysis she is also collaborating on the development of an engineering-economic cost model for electricity networks- SimNet. The first of its kind in Australia and one of only a few in the world, the model is designed to improve the regulatory process by estimating the implications for costs of different operating environments.

In her capacity as industry advisor appointed by APEC/DISR for their Coal Trade & Investment Liberalisation Workshop series in Asia Pacific, she has a leading role in the development of the workshops conducted in Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Malaysia.

Margaret lectures on regulation in the Energy Planning and Policy Program in the Graduate School of Engineering at the University of Technology Sydney. She is a member of the Sector Advisory Committee for the Energy Sector of the CSIRO and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Energy.

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